Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Supervisor's Report on Use of Force

Incident Information

URN: 912-23737-1182-145	Date:	12/16/12	Time:	0055	
Location:	[redacted] West Avenue L-4	City or Station:	Lancaster		
Bureau/Station/Facility:	Lancaster	Admin. Investigation:	YES ☐ NO ☒		
Type of Force:	Significant - Personal weapons				
Deputy Injury : YES ☐ NO ☒	Suspect Injury YES ☒ NO ☐				
☒ Call	☒ Observation	☐ Detail	☐ Foot Pursuit	☐ Vehicle Pursuit	
IAB Notified: YES ☒ NO ☐	Person Notified: Lt. Myron Johnson	Emp: [redacted]	IAB Roll Out: YES ☒ NO ☐		

Involved Employee

E1

Employee # [redacted]	Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	Middle Name [redacted]
Sex: ☒ Male ☐ Female	Race: H	Unit of Assignment: Lancaster	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 111B
Shift: ☒ EM ☐ Day ☐ PM	☒ Regular Shift ☐ OT Shift ☐ Off Duty	Age: [redacted]	Height: 604 / Weight: 200
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Admitted Hospital:		Coroner Case #	Directed Force ☐ Significant Force ☐

E2

Employee # [redacted]	Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	Middle Name
Sex: ☒ Male ☐ Female	Race: W	Unit of Assignment: Lancaster	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 113
Shift: ☒ EM ☐ Day ☐ PM	☒ Regular Shift ☐ OT Shift ☐ Off Duty	Age: [redacted]	Height: 506 / Weight: 175
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Admitted Hospital:		Coroner Case #	Directed Force ☐ Significant Force ☐

E3

Employee # [redacted]	Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	Middle Name
Sex: ☐ Male ☒ Female	Race: H	Unit of Assignment: Lancaster	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.): 113
Shift: ☒ EM ☐ Day ☐ PM	☒ Regular Shift ☐ OT Shift ☐ Off Duty	Age: [redacted]	Height: 505 / Weight: 125
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Admitted Hospital:		Coroner Case #	Directed Force ☐ Significant Force ☐

☐ **Additional Involved Employees**

On Duty Supervisor

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Rank	Present	Witness to Incident
[redacted]	Castillo	Roman		Sgt.	YES ☐ NO ☒	YES ☐ NO ☒
					YES ☐ NO ☐	YES ☐ NO ☐

Watch Sergeant

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted]	Riley	Bryan	

Watch Commander

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted]	Daniels	Richard	

Watch Commander (**Print Name**) ____ Watch Commander's **Signature**: ____ Emp #: ____ Date ____

Carlos Flores [redacted]

Supervisor Completing Form: (**Print Name**) ____ Emp #: ____ Copy Provided to Employee by: ____ Emp #: ____

Unit Commander (**Print Name**) ____ Unit Commander's **Signature**: ____ Emp #: ____ Date ____

DISCOVERY Use Only

FO#

Original: Discovery Unit
Copy: Unit Commander

SH-R-438P (Rev. 03/12)

Supervisor's Report on Use of Force
INVOLVED EMPLOYEE - Continuation
9 1 2 - 2 3 7 3 7 - 1 1 8 2 - 1 4 5

Involved Employee

E 4

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
[redacted]	Nordman	Eric	

Sex:	Race:	Unit of Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):
☒ Male ☐ Female	W	Lancaster	111A

Shift:		Age:	Height:	Weight:
☒ EM ☐ Day ☐ PM	☒ Regular Shift ☐ OT Shift ☐ Off Duty	[redacted]	602	245

		Coroner Case #	
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Admitted	Hospital:		Directed Force ☐ Significant Force ☒

E_

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

Sex:	Race:	Unit of Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):
☐ Male ☐ Female			

Shift:		Age:	Height:	Weight:
☐ EM ☐ Day ☐ PM	☐ Regular Shift ☐ OT Shift ☐ Off Duty			

		Coroner Case #	
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Admitted	Hospital:		Directed Force ☐ Significant Force ☐

E_

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

Sex:	Race:	Unit of Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):
☐ Male ☐ Female			

Shift:		Age:	Height:	Weight:
☐ EM ☐ Day ☐ PM	☐ Regular Shift ☐ OT Shift ☐ Off Duty			

		Coroner Case #	
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Admitted	Hospital:		Directed Force ☐ Significant Force ☐

E_

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

Sex:	Race:	Unit of Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):
☐ Male ☐ Female			

Shift:		Age:	Height:	Weight:
☐ EM ☐ Day ☐ PM	☐ Regular Shift ☐ OT Shift ☐ Off Duty			

		Coroner Case #	
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Admitted	Hospital:		Directed Force ☐ Significant Force ☐

E_

Employee #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

Sex:	Race:	Unit of Assignment:	Work Assignment (Unit #, Module, etc.):
☐ Male ☐ Female			

Shift:		Age:	Height:	Weight:
☐ EM ☐ Day ☐ PM	☐ Regular Shift ☐ OT Shift ☐ Off Duty			

		Coroner Case #	
☐ Injured ☐ Treated ☐ Admitted	Hospital:		Directed Force ☐ Significant Force ☐

Supervisor's Report on Use of Force
SUSPECT INFORMATION
912-23737-1182-145

Suspect Information

S 1

Last Name: Romero | First Name: Samuel | Middle Name: Arturo

AKA Last Name: | First Name: | Middle Name:

Sex: ☒ Male ☐ Female | Race: W | Street Address: [redacted] | City: [redacted] | State & Zip Code: [redacted]

Work Phone: --------------- | Home Phone: --------------- | Age: 50 | Height: 508 | D.O.B. 08-15-62 | Weight: 181 | Armed? ☐

Booking #: 3401728 | Primary Charge Code: 148(a)(1)PC | Secondary Charge Code: | Criminal History [redacted]

EMT in attendance? ☒ YES ☐ NO Name: L.A. County Fire | Unit: Unit 44 | Phone #: (661) 9406791

Hospital Admission? ☒ Rec'd Treatment At: Antelope Valley Hospital | Coroner Case #: | Mental History ☐ User's guide provides direction on this entry

By Doctor: Daniel Khodabakhsh | Address: 1600 West Avenue J, Lancaster | Phone #: (661) 949-5000

Under Influence: ☒ YES ☐ NO Substance: Alcohol/Marijuana | 5150 a factor in force ☐ YES ☒ NO User's guide provides direction on this entry

Suspect Interview

Date: 12-16-12 | Time: 0845 | ☒ Audiotape: | ☒ Videotape: | ☒ Photos of Injuries: | ☐ ADMITS HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suspect Information

S__

Last Name: | First Name: | Middle Name:

AKA Last Name: | First Name: | Middle Name:

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female | Race: | Street Address: | City: | State & Zip Code:

Work Phone: | Home Phone: | Age: | Height: | D.O.B. | Weight: | Armed? ☐

Booking #: | Primary Charge Code: | Secondary Charge Code: | Criminal History ☐

EMT in attendance? ☐ YES ☐ NO Name: | Unit: | Phone #:

Hospital Admission? ☐ Rec'd Treatment At: | Coroner Case #: | Mental History ☐ User's guide provides direction on this entry

By Doctor: | Address: | Phone #:

Under Influence: ☐ YES ☐ NO Substance: | 5150 a factor in force ☐ YES ☐ NO User's guide provides direction on this entry

Suspect Interview

Date: | Time: | ☐ Audiotape: | ☐ Videotape: | ☐ Photos of Injuries: | ☐ ADMITS HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Suspect Information

S__

Last Name: | First Name: | Middle Name:

AKA Last Name: | First Name: | Middle Name:

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female | Race: | Street Address: | City: | State & Zip Code:

Work Phone: | Home Phone: | Age: | Height: | D.O.B. | Weight: | Armed? ☐

Booking #: | Primary Charge Code: | Secondary Charge Code: | Criminal History ☐

EMT in attendance? ☐ YES ☐ NO Name: | Unit: | Phone #:

Hospital Admission? ☐ Rec'd Treatment At: | Coroner Case #: | Mental History ☐ User's guide provides direction on this entry

By Doctor: | Address: | Phone #:

Under Influence: ☐ YES ☐ NO Substance: | 5150 a factor in force ☐ YES ☐ NO User's guide provides direction on this entry

Suspect Interview

Date: | Time: | ☐ Audiotape: | ☐ Videotape: | ☐ Photos of Injuries: | ☐ ADMITS HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

☐ **Additional Suspects Involved**

Supervisor's Report on Use of Force
EMPLOYEE / NON-EMPLOYEE INFORMATION
9 1 2 - 2 3 7 3 7 - 1 1 8 2 - 1 4 5

Employee Witnesses

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	Middle Name	Age 26	D.O.B. [redacted]
Street Address [redacted]	City [redacted]	Zip Code [redacted]	Work Ph. ----------------	Home Ph. [redacted]
Last Name [redacted]	First Name [redacted]	Middle Name	Age 21	D.O.B. [redacted]
Street Address [redacted]	City [redacted]	Zip Code [redacted]	Work Ph. ----------------	Home Ph. [redacted]
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.

☐ Additional Witness

Method

(AW) Arwen
(BC) Baton: (Control)
(BI) Baton: (Impact)
(BF) Bodily Fluids
(CN) Canine
(CR) Carotid Restraint
(CH) Choke Hold
(CT) Control Holds: (Control Techniques)
(TT) Control Holds: (Team Takedown)
(TD) Control Holds: (Takedown)
(CE) Chemical
(OC) Chemical Agents (OC Spray)
(TG) Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)
(EX) Explosives
(FH) Firearm (Handgun)
(FR) Firearm (Rifle)
(FS) Firearm (Shotgun)
(FO) Firearm (Other)
(FB) Flashbang
(FL) Flashlight
(OE) Other Weapon: Edged
(OV) Other Weapon: Vehicle
(OB) Other Weapon: Blunt Object
(OO) Other Weapon: Other
(PK) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)
(PS) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)
(PH) Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)
(PP) Personal Weapon (Push)
(PO) Personal Weapon (Other)
(RS) Resistance
(CN) Restraint Device (Capture Net)
(RH) Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(HB) Restraint Device: Hobble (Legs Only)
(TP) Restraint Device: Hobble (TARP)
(RE) Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(SP) Sap
(SH) Shield
(SG) 37mm Stinger
(SB) Sting Ball
(ST) Stun Bag
(TR) Taser
(UC) Uncooperative

Type of Injury

(AB) Abrasion
(BR) Bruise
(BU) Burn
(CP) Complaint of Pain
(CO) Concussion
(DH) Death
(DI) Dislocation
(DB) Dog Bite
(FR) Fractures
(GS) Gunshot
(HB) Human Bite
(LC) Lacerations
(ND) Nerve Damage
(OD) Organ Damage
(PA) Paralysis
(PW) Puncture Wound
(SD) Soft Tissue Damage
(ST) Sprain/Twists
(UN) Unconscious
(RM) Refused Med Treatment
(NN) NONE

Body Part Injured

(AD) Abdomen
(AK) Ankle
(AR) Arm
(BK) Back
(BT) Buttocks
(CH) Chest
(EL) Elbow
(FA) Face
(FE) Feet
(FI) Fingers
(GE) Genitals
(GR) Groin
(HD) Hands
(HE) Head
(HI) Hip
(IN) Internal
(KN) Knees
(LE) Leg
(NK) Neck
(NO) Nose
(SH) Shoulder
(WR) Wrist

FORCE USED BY		FORCE USED AGAINST		Method (Code)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
Name	E# or S#	Name	E# or S#			
Romero	S#1	Deputy [redacted]	E#1	RS	NN	
Romero	S#1	Deputy [redacted]	E#2	RS	NN	
Romero	S#1	Deputy [redacted]	E#3	RS	NN	
Romero	S#1	Deputy Nordman	E#4	RS	NN	
Deputy [redacted]	E#1	Romero	S#1	CT	NN	
Deputy [redacted]	E#2	Romero	S#1	CT	NN	
Deputy [redacted]	E#3	Romero	S#1	CT	NN	
Deputy [redacted]	E#3	Romero	S#1	FL	NN	
Deputy Nordman	E#4	Romero	S#1	PH	BR	FA
Deputy Nordman	E#4	Romero	S#1	PH	CP	FA

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SIGNIFICANT FORCE INCIDENT SUMMARY

UNIT: Lancaster Station
DATE: December 16, 2012, Sunday
TIME: 0055 hours
LOCATION: [redacted] West Avenue L-4, Lancaster
URN#: 912-23737-1182-145
IAB#: FO2326104

NATURE OF INCIDENT:

On December 16, 2012, at approximately 0059 hours, Lancaster Station received a call from an anonymous caller, advising that several males were fighting on the street. The caller stated that the males were fighting in the area of 53rd Street, and West Avenue L-4. The call was assigned to Unit 113, Deputies [redacted] and [redacted], Tag 21.

> **IAB Note:** A copy of the Incident Details are included in this case book. See Miscellaneous Documents. The caller was later determined to be Witness [redacted], MW/25. Maps of the area are also included, see **Exhibit D**.

Units 111A, Deputy Eric Nordman, 111B, Deputy [redacted], and 111, Deputy Wesley Guthrie were included in the call to assist. Upon arrival to the area, the deputies observed several people leaving the residence at [redacted] West Avenue L-4. They also saw that several people ran back inside the residence, after they became aware of the deputies' presence.

The deputies exited their vehicles and approached the residence. Deputy [redacted] and Deputy [redacted] contacted a male in the front of the residence that appeared to be unconscious, on a plastic lawn chair. The deputies checked on the welfare of the individual, as Deputies [redacted], Nordman and Guthrie entered the location. The deputies saw several people exiting the home via the rear sliding glass door. They then began ascertaining who the homeowner was.

Deputy [redacted] determined that the male he contacted was not in need of medical attention, and he ([redacted]) then entered the residence. Deputy [redacted] remained in the front yard of the residence, detaining another male who had thrown a glass bottle in

the street. Deputy [redacted] found the home owner inside the home and began speaking with him. The deputies then began to hear a female's voice, coming from the rear south east bedroom, screaming and making moaning sounds. Deputies [redacted] and Nordman walked toward the bedroom and observed a unidentified female lying on a bed. The female appeared to be intoxicated.

Deputy [redacted] then walked to the north east bedroom and observed a male, later identified as Suspect Samuel Romero, hiding behind a DVD rack inside the bedroom. Fearing that the male was a suspect from the fight call, Deputy [redacted] ordered the suspect to stand up and to show his hands. The suspect stood up, but then attempted to open a door located on the north side of the room, which led to the residence's front yard. Deputy [redacted] told the suspect to leave the door alone, and again ordered the suspect to show his hands.

Suspect Romero would not comply with Deputy [redacted]'s orders, and would not show Deputy [redacted] his right hand, which he had behind his back. The suspect then opened the door and began to walk through it. Deputy [redacted] reached out and took hold of the suspect's shirt. The suspect continued walking through the door, and spun his body, causing his shirt to come off. The suspect then took two to three steps backwards and fell down on the grass, on his back.

Deputies [redacted], [redacted], and Nordman took hold of the suspect and attempted to roll him over onto his stomach. The suspect resisted, but after a short struggle the deputies were able to roll the suspect over. The suspect then put both hands underneath his body, close to his waistband. The deputies directed the suspect to put his hands behind his back, but the suspect would not comply. Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] took hold of the suspect's arms and attempted to pull them out from underneath his body, but were unsuccessful. The suspect's continued resistance thwarted their efforts to control his arms and handcuff him.

Deputy Nordman punched the suspect several times in the right side of the face, in an effort to get him to stop resisting and comply with their orders. Deputy Nordman also utilized his knee and elbow, striking the suspect several times. Deputy [redacted], who had also responded, pressed her hand held flashlight on the suspect's back, and applied pressure. Deputy [redacted] applied the pressure in an attempt to use pain compliance in order to get the suspect to give up his hands. Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] were finally able to control the suspect's arms, and handcuff him.

Suspect Romero was transported to Antelope Valley Hospital, where he was treated for his injuries. During treatment it was determined that the suspect sustained a "Subdural Hematoma," which required his admittance in the hospital.

Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) Lieutenant Myron Johnson, was notified, and along with IAB Sergeants Carlos Flores and Jeffrey Hamil responded to Lancaster Station to conduct an administrative review of the incident. The following review is based on written documentation and interviews of witnesses, involved deputies, and medical staff.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL:

[redacted] - Deputy, #[redacted] MH/[redacted] 604/200 Lbs.
Lancaster Station
Unit 111B
Field Operations Region I

Employee's Work History:

Date of Employment: 10-15-07
Date Assigned to Unit: 05-27-12
Prior Shooting Incident(s): [redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incidents: [redacted]

Nordman, Eric - Deputy, #[redacted] MW/[redacted] 602/245 Lbs.
Lancaster Station
Unit 111A
Field Operations Region I

Employee's Work History:

Date of Employment: 10-15-07
Date Assigned to Unit: 05-27-12
Prior Shooting Incident(s): [redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incidents: [redacted]

[redacted] - Deputy, #[redacted] MW/[redacted] 506/175 Lbs.
Lancaster Station
Unit 113
Field Operations Region I

Employee's Work History:

Date of Employment: 10-15-07
Date Assigned to Unit: 05-27-12
Prior Shooting Incident(s): [redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incidents: [redacted]

[redacted] - Deputy, #[redacted] FH/[redacted] 505/125 Lbs.
Lancaster Station
Unit 113
Field Operations Region I

Employee's Work History:

Date of Employment:	02-19-08
Date Assigned to Unit:	05-27-12
Prior Shooting Incident(s):	 [redacted]
Prior Founded Force Incidents:	[redacted]

INVOLVED SUSPECT:

Romero, Samuel

Sex:	Male
Race:	White
Date of Birth	August 15, 1962
Height:	508
Weight:	181
Booking #	3401728
Booking Charges:	148(a)(1)PC

The Consolidated [redacted]

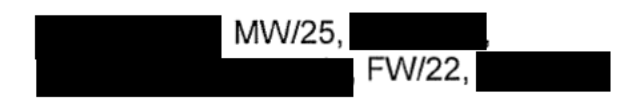
IAB Note: A copy of Suspect Romero's criminal history is included in this case book. See **Exhibit C**.

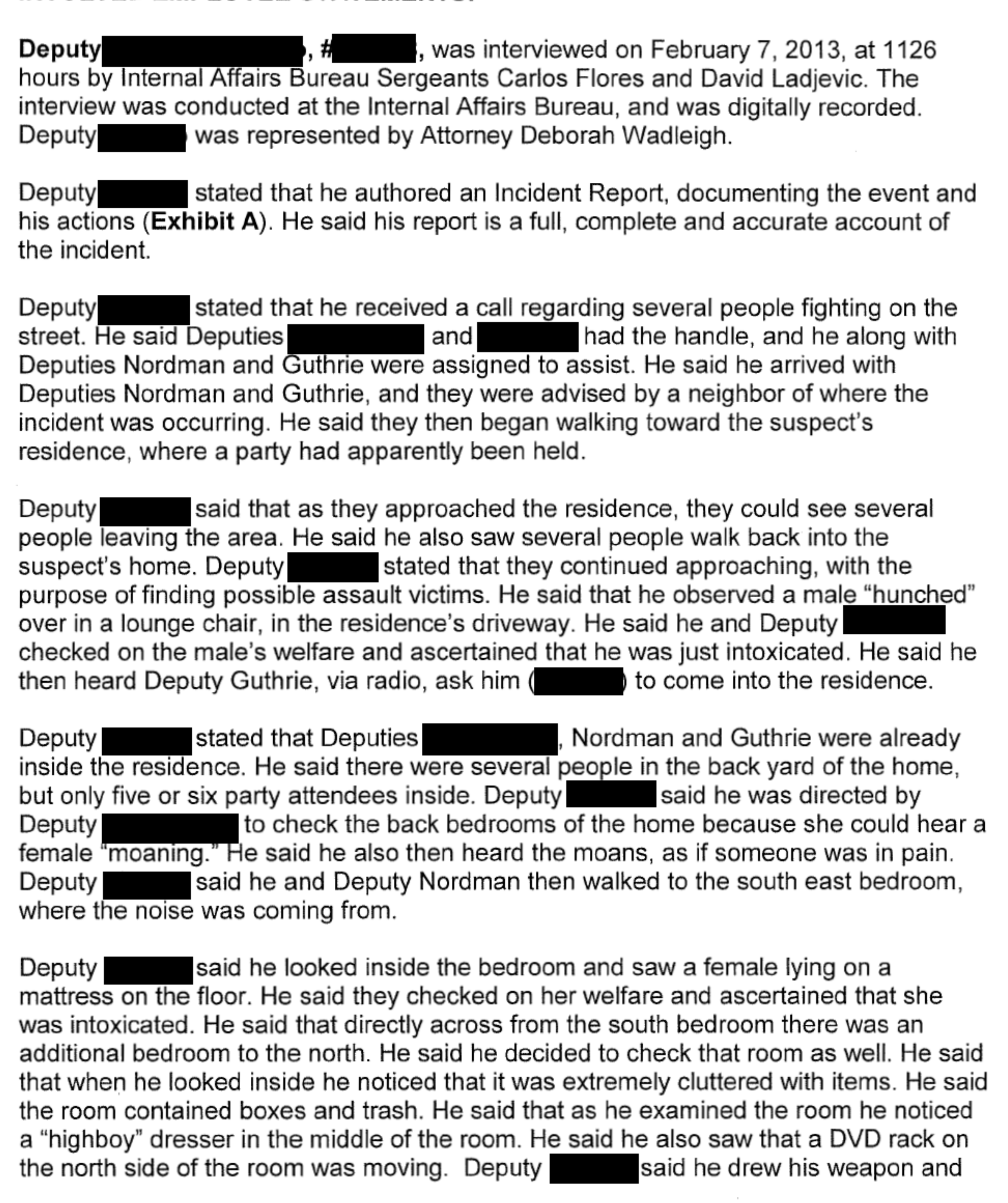
DEPUTY WITNESSES:

None

NON DEPARTMENT WITNESS:

Lancaster Station Sergeant, Roman Castillo, #[redacted], and Deputy Shane Dobra, #[redacted], canvassed the area for witnesses. Two witnesses were found that observed a portion of the incident.


[redacted] MW/25, [redacted],
[redacted], FW/22, [redacted]



IAB Note: Deputy Dobra documented his actions in a supplemental report. A copy of his report is included in this case book. See **Exhibit B**.

INVOLVED EMPLOYEE STATEMENTS:

**Deputy [redacted], #[redacted], was interviewed on February 7, 2013, at 1126 hours by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Carlos Flores and David Ladjevic. The interview was conducted at the Internal Affairs Bureau, and was digitally recorded. Deputy [redacted] was represented by Attorney Deborah Wadleigh.

Deputy [redacted] stated that he authored an Incident Report, documenting the event and his actions (**Exhibit A**). He said his report is a full, complete and accurate account of the incident.

Deputy [redacted] stated that he received a call regarding several people fighting on the street. He said Deputies [redacted] and [redacted] had the handle, and he along with Deputies Nordman and Guthrie were assigned to assist. He said he arrived with Deputies Nordman and Guthrie, and they were advised by a neighbor of where the incident was occurring. He said they then began walking toward the suspect's residence, where a party had apparently been held.

Deputy [redacted] said that as they approached the residence, they could see several people leaving the area. He said he also saw several people walk back into the suspect's home. Deputy [redacted] stated that they continued approaching, with the purpose of finding possible assault victims. He said that he observed a male "hunched" over in a lounge chair, in the residence's driveway. He said he and Deputy [redacted] checked on the male's welfare and ascertained that he was just intoxicated. He said he then heard Deputy Guthrie, via radio, ask him ([redacted]) to come into the residence.

Deputy [redacted] stated that Deputies [redacted], Nordman and Guthrie were already inside the residence. He said there were several people in the back yard of the home, but only five or six party attendees inside. Deputy [redacted] said he was directed by Deputy [redacted] to check the back bedrooms of the home because she could hear a female "moaning." He said he also then heard the moans, as if someone was in pain. Deputy [redacted] said he and Deputy Nordman then walked to the south east bedroom, where the noise was coming from.

Deputy [redacted] said he looked inside the bedroom and saw a female lying on a mattress on the floor. He said they checked on her welfare and ascertained that she was intoxicated. He said that directly across from the south bedroom there was an additional bedroom to the north. He said he decided to check that room as well. He said that when he looked inside he noticed that it was extremely cluttered with items. He said the room contained boxes and trash. He said that as he examined the room he noticed a "highboy" dresser in the middle of the room. He said he also saw that a DVD rack on the north side of the room was moving. Deputy [redacted] said he drew his weapon and

began walking into the room to get a better look. He said he then saw the suspect lying on the floor, and it appeared as though he was attempting to hide.

Deputy [redacted] stated that he shouted for the suspect to get up and to show his hands. He said he did not know if the suspect was an assault suspect, or possible victim, so he just wanted to detain him until he determined what had occurred. Deputy [redacted] stated that the suspect stood up, faced him, but put both hands behind his back. He said the suspect then attempted to open a door, which was located on the north side of the room, and led to the front yard of the home. Deputy [redacted] said he continued to direct the suspect to show him his hands, but the suspect continued to attempt to open the door with his hands behind his back. He said he told the suspect that deputies were on the other side of the door, and the suspect said, "I don't give a fuck, I would rather be out there with them than in here with you two, I don't trust you."

Deputy [redacted] said he saw the suspect's left hand, which did not contain a weapon. He said the suspect continued to attempt to open the door with his right hand. Deputy [redacted] said he approached the suspect and took hold of his shirt sleeve, at which time the suspect was then able to open the door and quickly walked through it. He said the suspect's actions caused his shirt to come off. Deputy [redacted] said he followed the suspect through the door and saw that the suspect took a couple steps forward and turned to face him. He said the suspect then took several steps backwards and tripped and fell on his back.

Deputy [redacted] said that he immediately approached the suspect and took hold of his right arm. He said that Deputy [redacted] also approached and took hold of the suspect's left arm. He said they turned the suspect over on his stomach in order to control him and to handcuff him. He said he feared that the suspect was in possession of a weapon, and wanted to handcuff him. Deputy [redacted] said when the suspect was turned over, he (suspect) was able to place both his hand underneath his body, close to his waistband. He said he then took hold of the suspect's left arm and attempted to pull it from under his body, and saw that Deputy [redacted] was doing the same with the suspect's right arm. He said the suspect tensed his arms and would not allow the deputies to place his hands behind his back. He said they were also ordering the suspect to show his hands, but the suspect would not comply.

Deputy [redacted] said that Deputy Nordman approached and took a position close to the suspect's head. He said he heard Deputy Nordman order the suspect to show his hands, but the suspect refused and continued to resist their efforts to pull his hands from underneath him. He said Deputy Nordman warned the suspect that if he did not give up his hands, he (Nordman) would punch him. He said the suspect continued to be uncooperative. He said he then saw Deputy Nordman punch the suspect one time in the face, but the suspect still did not give up his hands. He said he heard Deputy Nordman again warn the suspect, but the suspect was still uncooperative. He then saw Deputy Nordman punch the suspect several more times in the face.

Deputy [redacted] said he was finally able to pull the suspect's left arm and control it. He said he [redacted]) turned his body and was facing away from Deputy Nordman as he controlled the suspect's arm. He said he saw that Deputy [redacted] was still unable to pull the suspect's right arm, and then heard what sounded like several more punches by Deputy Nordman. He said that he did not see the punches, but could hear that they were making contact with the suspect. He said Deputy [redacted] was then able to pull the suspect's right arm and they handcuffed him.

Deputy [redacted] said that during the incident he knew that Deputy [redacted] was close by, but did not observe her actions. He said he did hear her broadcasting over the radio. He said that the scene was very dark. He said that based on the suspect's actions he believed that Deputy Nordman utilized the proper amount of force to overcome the suspect resistance. He said the struggle with the suspect lasted approximately one minute.

For his complete statement, refer to Deputy [redacted]'s interview transcript, included in this case book. During his interview Deputy [redacted] was shown a photograph of the scene. The photograph is included with his interview transcript.

Deputy Eric Nordman, #[redacted], was interviewed on February 7, 2013, at 1238 hours by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Carlos Flores and David Ladjevic. The interview was conducted at the Internal Affairs Bureau, and was digitally recorded. Deputy Nordman was represented by Attorney Deborah Wadleigh.

Deputy Nordman stated that he authored a Supplemental Report, documenting the event and his actions (**Exhibit B**). He said his report is a full, complete and accurate account of the incident.

Deputy Nordman stated that he received a call regarding several people fighting in the street. He said he arrived at the location with Deputy [redacted], who subsequently received information from a neighbor of where the incident was occurring. He said they left their vehicles approximately two houses away and walked to the suspect's residence. He said that as they approached he could see several people in front of the home and broken glass in the front yard. He said that as they walked closer to the home they saw several people walk inside the residence through the front door. He said that he could also hear people yelling incoherently from inside the home.

Deputy Nordman said that based on the nature of the call, and the fact that people were yelling, he and Deputies [redacted] and Guthrie entered the residence. He stated that he saw approximately five people inside the home, and approximately 30 to 40 people in the back yard. He said that the people in the back yard appeared to have been drinking and smoking. He said he then saw Deputy [redacted] also enter the residence. He said Deputy [redacted] asked Deputy [redacted] to check the rear bedrooms because they could hear what sounded like a woman "moaning," as if in pain. He said Deputy [redacted] began walking to the south bedroom, and he (Nordman) followed.

Deputy Nordman said he looked in the bedroom and saw a female lying on a mattress on the floor. He said the female did not appear injured, but was very intoxicated. He said he stayed in the room while Deputy [redacted] went to check the room across the hall to the north. Deputy Nordman said he then heard Deputy [redacted] say, "stand up," which caused him (Nordman) to walk to the north bedroom as well. He said he looked inside and saw that Deputy [redacted] was ordering someone to stand up and show his hands. He said that the room was extremely cluttered with items. He said that he then saw Suspect Romero stand up, with his hands behind his back.

Deputy Nordman said the suspect would not show his hands, but rather began attempting to open a door on the north side of the room, which led to the front yard. He said that the suspect was facing him, and had his back facing the north door, but was attempting to open the door with his hands behind his back. Deputy Nordman said he heard the suspect say, "I'd rather be out there than in here with you two, I don't trust you two." He said that after several seconds the suspect was able to open the door, and he (suspect) walked through it. He said that Deputy [redacted] followed closely behind the suspect, through the door. Deputy Nordman said he then walked across the bedroom and also walked through the door and onto the front yard of the residence. He said he looked to his right and saw the suspect lying on his back, and Deputy [redacted] was kneeling next to the right side of the suspect's body.

Deputy Nordman said that Deputy [redacted] was attempting to control the suspect's right arm, and was telling the suspect , "Give me your hands." He said it appeared that the suspect had positioned his hands close to his waistband. He said he then saw Deputy [redacted] approach the suspect on the left side and took hold of the suspect's left arm. Deputy Nordman said he took a position on the suspect's left shoulder area, and assisted Deputy [redacted] in controlling the suspect's left arm. Deputy Nordman said they then decided to turn the suspect onto his stomach in order to better control him and to handcuff him. He said that they also wanted to "trap" any possible weapon that the suspect had in his waistband.

Deputy Nordman said that when they turned the suspect over, he (suspect) was able to place his hands underneath his body, close to his waistband. He said they ordered the suspect to give up his hands but the suspect would not comply. He said the suspect was also resisting their efforts to pull his hands from underneath his body. Deputy Nordman said he placed his knee on the suspect's shoulder blade in order to contain him and keep him down on the ground. He said that they continuously directed the suspect to give up his hands, but the suspect would not comply. He said that he feared the suspect had a weapon in his waistband and he warned the suspect that if he did not give up his hand, he (Nordman) would punch him in the face. He said the suspect still would not comply.

Deputy Nordman said he punched the suspect one time, striking the suspect on the right side of the face. He said he chose to utilize personal weapons due to the fact that nobody had a TASER, and the use of Oleoresin Capsicum would have caused a contamination danger to his partners. Deputy Nordman said he then broadcasted on the

radio that he was involved in a fight, and heard Deputy [redacted] tell him that she would update their status on the radio. Deputy Nordman said the suspect still would not give up his hands, and he warned the suspect again. He said that based on the suspect's continuous resistance, he punched the suspect several more times on the right side of the face.

Deputy Nordman stated that his punches had no effect on the suspect, as he continued to resist their efforts to handcuff him. He said he then struck the suspect two times on the right side of his face, utilizing his knee. He said he then heard Deputy [redacted] advise him that he had control of the suspect's left arm. He said he then reassessed the situation and saw that Deputy [redacted] was still struggling to control the suspect's right arm. He said he then struck the suspect six to seven times on the right shoulder blade, utilizing his left elbow. He said the strikes were effective, as the suspect released the tension to his right arm, allowing Deputy [redacted] to control it.

Deputy Nordman stated that the suspect was then handcuffed without further incident. Deputy Nordman stated that based on the suspect's actions, he believes the force he utilized was appropriate and effective. He said that given the same set of circumstances, he would not do anything different.

For his complete statement, refer to Deputy Nordman's interview transcript, included in this case book. During his interview Deputy Nordman was shown a photograph of the scene. The photograph is included with his interview transcript.

Deputy [redacted], #[redacted], was interviewed on January 28, 2013, at 1125 hours, by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Carlos Flores and David Ladjevic. The interview was conducted at the Internal Affairs Bureau, and was digitally recorded. Deputy [redacted] was represented by Attorney Deborah Wadleigh.

Deputy [redacted] stated that she authored a Supplemental Report, documenting the event and her actions (**Exhibit B**). She said her report is a full, complete and accurate account of the incident.

Deputy [redacted] stated that on December 16, 2012, she was working Unit 113, with her partner Deputy [redacted] She stated that they responded to the suspect's home regarding a fight call.

IAB Note: On the Incident Details, it indicates that Deputy [redacted] and Deputy [redacted] were working Unit 113. [redacted] is Deputy [redacted]s maiden name. At the time of this incident, her name had not yet been updated on the Computer Aided Dispatch system.

Deputy [redacted] stated that she and her partner arrived to the area after Deputies [redacted] and Nordman. She said she saw Deputies [redacted] and Nordman speaking with neighbors, who advised them of where the disturbance was occurring. She said she

then responded to the suspect's home. She said that upon arrival she saw several people outside, running back inside the suspect's home.

Deputy [redacted] stated that she approached the suspect's home and she could hear people "screaming and moaning." She said she entered the suspect's home with Deputy Wesley Guthrie, #[redacted], who was working Unit 111. She said she entered through the opened front door, in order to ascertain if there were any injured people inside. She said that as they entered she saw several people going out to the back yard through the home's rear sliding door.

Deputy [redacted] stated that there were approximately 30 to 40 people in the back yard. She said some were just standing around, and others were hopping the back block wall. She said there was broken glass, and it appeared as though a fight could have occurred there. Deputy [redacted] said she went back inside the home and contacted a young male, who they later ascertained was a resident of that location. She said the male was so intoxicated he had difficulty standing up.

IAB Note: The young male was identified as the suspect's [redacted], [redacted].

Deputy [redacted] stated that while she was speaking with the young male, she could hear a female shouting in one of the rear rooms. She said she asked Deputies [redacted] and Nordman to go down the hall and check on the screaming woman. She said that approximately 30 seconds after they went down the hall, she could hear "scuffling noise." She said she instructed Deputy Guthrie to stay with the young male, and she went to check on Deputies [redacted] and Nordman.

Deputy [redacted] said she walked to the north bedroom and looked inside. She said the room appeared to be extremely "cluttered," but empty of people. She said she saw the room had a door on the north side, which led to the front yard of the residence. She said the door was open, and she began to walk toward it. Deputy [redacted] said she exited the home and saw Deputies [redacted], Nordman and [redacted] on the ground, with Suspect Romero. She said it appeared that the deputies were struggling to control the suspect. She said she saw the suspect had his hands underneath his body, and he was flailing his shoulders and kicking his legs.

Deputy [redacted] stated the suspect held his hands underneath his body, close to his waistband. She said that based on the suspect's actions, she believed the suspect was attempting to conceal something, or reaching for something. She said the deputies were attempting to take hold of the suspect's arms, but they were having a very difficult time. She said she could hear the deputies ordering the suspect to allow them to control his hands. Deputy [redacted] said she immediately responded and put her knee on the suspect's left shoulder blade. She said she utilized her weight in order to keep the suspect down.

Deputy [redacted] said that they continuously told the suspect to "give us your arms, give us your hands," but the suspect refused. She said he continued to struggle and resist the deputies' efforts. She said he also kept his hands underneath his body, close to his waistband. Deputy [redacted] said she then saw Deputy Nordman punch the suspect, and could hear that he was making contact with the suspect. She said that due to the darkness, she could not see where Deputy Nordman was striking the suspect, but believed he was making contact.

Deputy [redacted] said she saw that Deputy Nordman had also initiated emergent radio traffic, advising that they were involved in a fight. She said she told Deputy Nordman that she would continue broadcasting their status, and she took over the radio. She said she then placed her hand held flashlight against the suspect's left shoulder blade and applied pressure. She said she applied the pressure in an attempt to gain compliance from the suspect. She said the tactic was ineffective, as the suspect continued to resist, and would not release his arms.

IAB Note: Deputy [redacted] stated that her flashlight is a "Sure Fire Defender" which is made of metal, approximately five inches long. A photograph of that model is included in this case book. See **Exhibit E**. The manufacturer's specifications on that model flashlight indicate that the flashlight is 5.40 inches long, and weighs 3.7 ounces.

Deputy [redacted] said Deputy Nordman again struck the suspect, punching him several times. She said she was unable to see where on the suspect's body he was making contact with, but believed he was making contact. She said the suspect then released his left arm. She said Deputy Nordman punched the suspect again, and the suspect released his right arm, enabling Deputies [redacted] and Nordman to handcuff the suspect. She said that after the suspect was handcuffed, she realized that the deputies and the suspect were the only people in the front yard. She said that most of the partygoers had left by the time they arrested the suspect.

Deputy [redacted] said the force she witnessed Deputy Nordman use was reasonable based on the suspect's actions. She said her attempt to obtain pain compliance from the suspect was also reasonable. She said that given the same circumstances, she would not do anything different.

For her complete statement, refer to Deputy [redacted]s interview transcript, included in this case book. During her interview Deputy [redacted] was shown photographs of the scene. The photographs are included with her interview transcript.

Deputy [redacted], #[redacted] was interviewed on February 7, 2013, at 1045 hours by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Carlos Flores and David Ladjevic. The interview was conducted at the Internal Affairs Bureau, and was digitally recorded. Deputy [redacted] was represented by Attorney Deborah Wadleigh.

Deputy [redacted] stated that he authored a Supplemental Report, documenting the event and his actions (**Exhibit B**). He said his report is a full, complete and accurate account of the incident.

Deputy [redacted] stated that he and his partner, Deputy [redacted], were given the handle of a fight call. He said that they were given several assisting units, and Deputy [redacted] coordinated with them, via radio, of how they were to respond. Deputy [redacted] said that upon their arrival he saw several people in the front yard of the suspect's residence. He said that as they (deputies) approached the residence, most of the people went back inside the home, via the front door.

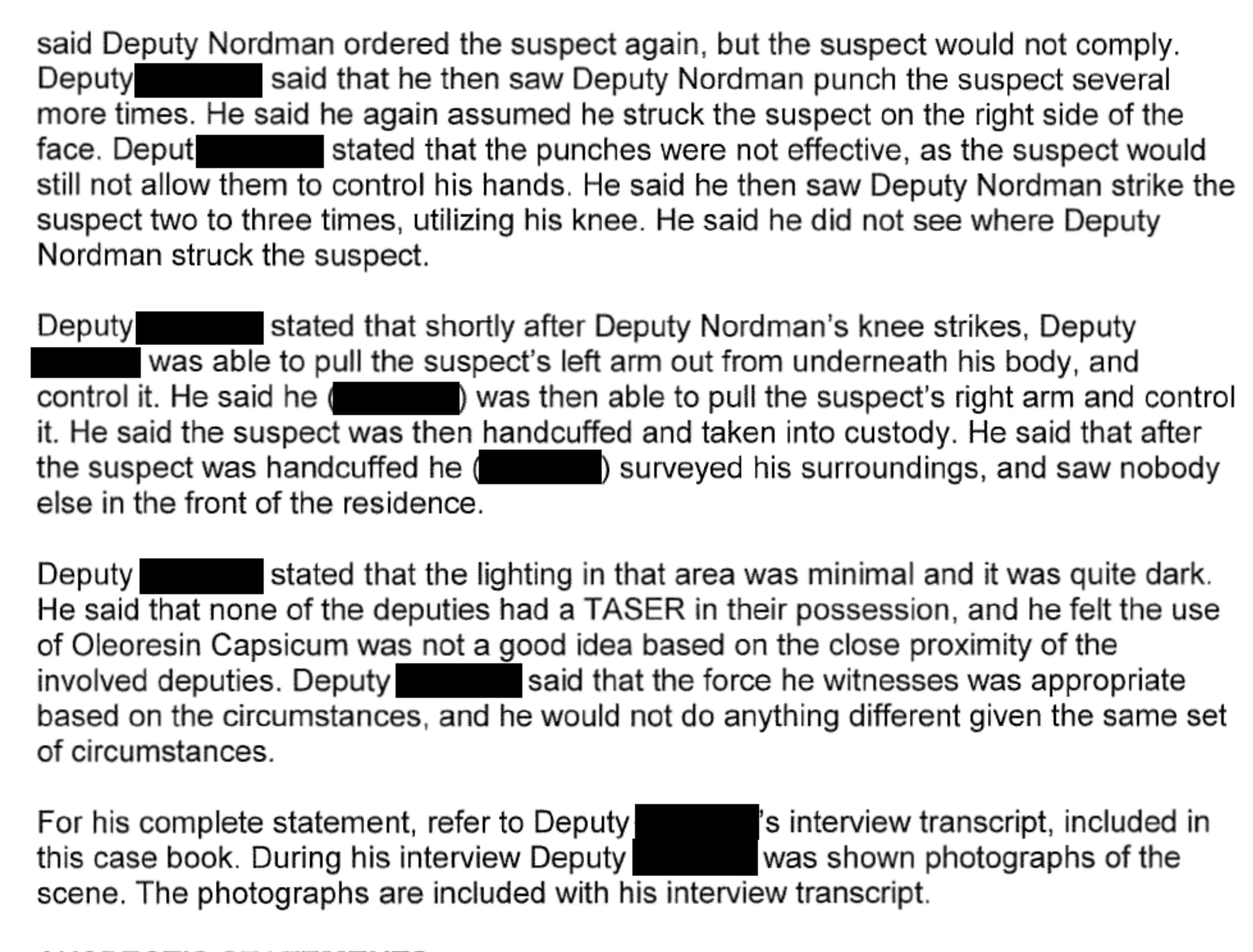
Deputy [redacted] said that he and Deputy [redacted] contacted a male, who was sitting, "slouched" on a chair in the driveway of the residence. He said he and Deputy [redacted] checked on the male's welfare, which ultimately they discovered that he was not hurt, but only intoxicated. Deputy [redacted] said he then detained a male who had thrown a bottle into the street. He said he remained in front of the location as Deputies Nordman, [redacted], [redacted] and Guthrie entered the residence. Deputy [redacted] said he remained in front in order to provide security for their vehicles, and to ensure nobody entered the residence behind the deputies.

Deputy [redacted] said that he saw a door of the residence open and saw a male, later identified as Suspect Romero, step onto the front yard. He said the suspect took a couple steps onto the front yard and fell on his back. He said that when he initially saw the suspect, he (suspect) had his left hand by his waistband, is if concealing something. He said it appeared that the suspect "lost his footing," causing him to fall to the ground.

Deputy [redacted] said he saw Deputy [redacted] approach the suspect, and take hold of the suspect's right arm. He said he ([redacted]) then approached and took hold of the suspect's left arm. Deputy [redacted] said the suspect "tensed" his body, which made it difficult to control him. He said they made a decision to turn the suspect over onto his stomach, in order to better control him. He said that when they turned the suspect over, he (suspect) placed his hands underneath his body. Deputy [redacted] said he began pulling on the suspect's right arm, attempting to pull it from underneath his body. He said Deputy [redacted] was doing the same with the left. Deputy [redacted] stated that the suspect resisted their efforts and would not comply with their order to allow them to control his hands.

Deputy [redacted] said he then heard Deputy Nordman order the suspect to give up his hands, and warned him that if he did not give up his hands he (Nordman) would punch him. He said the suspect still did not comply, at which point Deputy Nordman punched the suspect one time. He said he assumed Deputy Nordman struck the suspect on the right side of the face, but he did not actually see the contact.

Deputy [redacted] stated that the suspect still would not comply, even after having been struck by Deputy Nordman. He said that he and Deputy [redacted] continued pulling on the suspect's arms, but could not pull them from underneath the suspect's body. He



said Deputy Nordman ordered the suspect again, but the suspect would not comply. Deputy [redacted] said that he then saw Deputy Nordman punch the suspect several more times. He said he again assumed he struck the suspect on the right side of the face. Deput [redacted] stated that the punches were not effective, as the suspect would still not allow them to control his hands. He said he then saw Deputy Nordman strike the suspect two to three times, utilizing his knee. He said he did not see where Deputy Nordman struck the suspect.

Deputy [redacted] stated that shortly after Deputy Nordman's knee strikes, Deputy [redacted] was able to pull the suspect's left arm out from underneath his body, and control it. He said he ([redacted]) was then able to pull the suspect's right arm and control it. He said the suspect was then handcuffed and taken into custody. He said that after the suspect was handcuffed he ([redacted]) surveyed his surroundings, and saw nobody else in the front of the residence.

Deputy [redacted] stated that the lighting in that area was minimal and it was quite dark. He said that none of the deputies had a TASER in their possession, and he felt the use of Oleoresin Capsicum was not a good idea based on the close proximity of the involved deputies. Deputy [redacted] said that the force he witnesses was appropriate based on the circumstances, and he would not do anything different given the same set of circumstances.

For his complete statement, refer to Deputy [redacted]'s interview transcript, included in this case book. During his interview Deputy [redacted] was shown photographs of the scene. The photographs are included with his interview transcript.

SUSPECT'S STATEMENTS:

Suspect Romero was interviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Carlos Flores and Jeffrey Hamil on December 16, 2012, at 0845 hours. The interview was conducted in the emergency room at Antelope Valley Hospital. The interview was digitally audio recorded.

Suspect Romero stated that a party was held at his residence, which was attended by numerous people. He said that at one point he heard several people arguing, and his son began asking people to leave. Suspect Romero stated that he went to his bedroom, and could hear a female "moaning" in the bedroom next to his. He said the female was intoxicated and was making strange noises.

Suspect Romero stated that a deputy entered his room and told him not to go outside. He said that though it was dark in his room, he knew that it was a deputy that was talking to him. He said he had no idea why deputies had responded and entered his home. Suspect Romero said that even though the deputy told him not to go outside, he (Romero) became frightened and did not want to stay in the room with the deputies. He said he told the deputies that he did not trust them, and he (Romero) opened the door that led to the front yard. Suspect Romero said that when he walked through the door,

one of the deputies took hold of his shirt. He said he "wiggled" out of his shirt and turned away from the deputy. He said he then went to the ground on his own, placing his hands underneath his body.

Suspect Romero stated that he was then "threatened" by a deputy, who then started to punch him on the side of the face. Suspect Romero said he was not fighting the deputies, but was resisting their efforts to pull his arms from underneath his body. Suspect Romero said he felt a deputy punch him numerous times on the side of the face, and on the back of his neck. Suspect Romero said he does not know how he sustained the abrasions on his body, but knows that the bruises on his face were caused by the deputy's punches. He said he is uncertain how many deputies had taken hold of him while on the ground, but believes it was two. He said that the struggle with the deputies lasted approximately one minute.

Suspect Romero stated that prior to the deputies' arrival, he had consumed approximately four, 16 ounce beers. He said he was feeling the effects of the alcohol, stating that he was "slightly intoxicated." Suspect Romero said he did not ingest any other substance or narcotic. Suspect Romero said he has been diagnosed with "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder" in the past.

IAB Note: Toxicology tests conducted at the hospital indicate that there was marijuana present in Suspect Romero's system at the time of the incident.

DEPARTMENT WITNESS STATEMENTS:

Roman Castillo, Sergeant

Sergeant Castillo is a sergeant assigned to the Lancaster Station. He was the on duty field supervisor when the incident occurred. He was telephonically interviewed on February 15, 2013, at 1615 hours, by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeant Carlos Flores. The interview was digitally audio recorded.

Sergeant Castillo stated that when the deputies were dispatched the fight call, he began responding from the Lancaster Station. He said that while en route, he heard the deputies broadcast that they were involved in a fight. Sergeant Castillo said that he then heard the deputies broadcast that the situation was "code four," and he continued to respond.

Sergeant Castillo said that when he arrived, the deputies advised him of the force they applied on the suspect. He said that he also spoke with Deputy Guthrie, who advised him that he did not use force, or witness the involved deputies' use of force. Sergeant Castillo said he attempted to find witnesses to the force, but was unsuccessful. He said the involved deputies also told him that there were no witnesses to the force. He said he also directed Deputy Shane Dobra to canvass the neighborhood for possible witnesses.

IAB Note: Deputy Dobra contacted two witnesses who were later interviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeant Carlos Flores. Deputy Dobra completed a Supplemental Report regarding his canvass of the neighborhood and his contact with the two potential witnesses. See **Exhibit B**.

Sergeant Castillo stated that the suspect was transported to Antelope Valley Hospital to be treated for his injuries. He said he subsequently spoke with the treating Emergency Room Doctor, Daniel Khodabakhsh (known as Doctor Khoda). Sergeant Castillo stated that Doctor Khodabakhsh advised him that the suspect's injuries were consistent with having been punched in the face.

NON – DEPARTMENT WITNESS STATEMENTS:

[redacted]

Witness [redacted] is a 25 year old male who resides at [redacted], in the city of [redacted]. He was interviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeant Carlos Flores on December 16, 2012, at 0729 hours. The interview was conducted at [redacted], and was digitally audio recorded.

Witness [redacted] stated that he was visiting his [redacted] who resides at [redacted]. He said he observed a large party taking place approximately two houses to the west of his [redacted]'s home. Witness [redacted] said he estimated that there was approximately 100 party attendees at the suspect's home. Witness [redacted] said he later saw several party attendees fighting in the street, causing him to call 911.

Witness [redacted] stated that the people involved in the fight stopped fighting prior to the deputies' arrival. He said the party attendees then began to disperse from the area. He said that upon the deputies' arrival, party attendees were still dispersing and leaving the location. Witness [redacted] said the deputies contacted him and he pointed to the suspect's home, advising the deputies that the problems had originated at that location. He said the deputies then began walking toward the suspect's home.

Witness [redacted] stated that approximately four minutes after the deputies arrived at the suspect's home, he observed what appeared to be a "scuffle" in the front yard. He said the "scuffle" involved an unknown male, and approximately four deputies. He said it appeared that the deputies had "tackled" the suspect in the front yard. Witness [redacted] said he was unable to see exactly what was occurring due to the fact that he was observing the incident from far away. He said that he subsequently observed the deputies place the suspect in the back seat of a police car, which was parked in front of the suspect's residence.

IAB Note: Prior to Witness [redacted] interview, Witness [redacted] advised Sergeant Flores that he (Witness [redacted]) had consumed several beers during the course of the morning. Sergeant Flores observed

that Witness [redacted] was exhibiting symptoms of being under the influence of alcohol. Sergeant Flores could smell an alcoholic beverage emitting from Witness [redacted]' breath and person, and observed that his eyes were watery and bloodshot. Sergeant Flores also observed that Witness [redacted] had an unsteady gait. Witness [redacted] said he was standing in the front yard of his [redacted]'s home during the incident.

[redacted]

Witness [redacted] is a 21 year old female who resides at [redacted] in the city of [redacted]. She was telephonically interviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeant Carlos Flores on December 17, 2012, at 1424 hours. The interview was digitally audio recorded.

Witness [redacted] stated that on the night of the incident she and [redacted] (Witness [redacted]) were visiting a friend who resides at [redacted]. She said she was spending the night at the residence on that evening. She said that she heard a loud party taking place [redacted] houses to the [redacted], and she could clearly hear it from her friend's home. [redacted].

Witness [redacted] stated that she later saw several juveniles on the street, and it appeared that some were fighting. She said she also heard several of the juveniles shouting that a fight was occurring. She said that based on what she and Witness [redacted] saw and heard, Witness [redacted] called the Lancaster Sheriff's Station, and asked that deputies respond to the location.

Witness [redacted] stated that initially, the deputies responded to the home [redacted], but Witness [redacted] quickly pointed out to them where the problem was. She said that when the deputies began walking to where the party was being held, she saw several juveniles dispersing and leaving the location.

Witness [redacted] stated that a short time later she saw someone run out of the suspect's home, and saw four deputies take hold of the individual. She said she assumed that the individual was a "juvenile" based on the fact that she saw only juveniles attending the party. She said she saw that the suspect and the deputies went to the ground, and was unable to see anything after that. Witness [redacted] stated that there was no lighting in that area, and her view was also obstructed by a wall and a pickup truck in the suspect's driveway. She said she did not observe the deputies strike or punch the suspect in any way. She said it appeared that the altercation between the deputies and the suspect lasted approximately 30 seconds. She said she then saw the deputies get up off the ground, and subsequently saw the paramedics arrive.

IAB Note: Witness [redacted] was standing in the front yard of her friend's home ([redacted]) during the incident.

SUSPECT'S INJURIES:

Suspect Romero was treated at the scene by Los Angeles County Paramedics, Unit 44. He was then transported, via ambulance to Antelope Valley Hospital, where he received treatment for his injuries by Emergency Room Doctor Daniel Khodabakhsh. The suspect sustained a "Subdural Hematoma," (collection of blood outside the brain) on the right side. He also sustained a contusion on the right side of his face, and abrasions to his head, back, and right knee. Doctor Khodabakhsh subsequently stated that the facial/head injury sustained by Suspect Romero was consistent with having been punched.

Due to the "Subdural Hematoma," Suspect Romero was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit. He was released from the hospital on December 19, 2012. Toxicology test results indicate that marijuana was present in Suspect Romero's system at the time of the incident. Suspect Romero had also admitted to drinking alcoholic beverages on the night of the incident

IAB Note: Photographs of the suspect's injuries are included in this case book. See **Exhibit F**. When Internal Affairs Bureau investigators interviewed the suspect, he (suspect) signed a Medical Record Release Form. Medical treatment documentation was obtained and is also included in this case book. See **Exhibit F**.

DEPUTY PERSONNEL INJURIES:

None

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE:

No physical evidence was collected at the scene. The scene was video recorded by Lancaster Sergeant Kevin Turrill, #[redacted]. Photographs of the scene were taken by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeant Carlos Flores.

IAB Note: The video recording and photographs are included in this case book. See **Exhibit E**.

INVESTIGATORS' OBSERVATIONS:

Due to the time lapse between the incident and medical diagnosis, Internal Affairs Bureau investigators responded to the scene several hours after the incident. The area where the deputies contacted the suspect, and where the use of force subsequently occurred, is a residential area. The force occurred in the front yard of [redacted] West Avenue L-4, Lancaster (See **Exhibit E**).

REVIEW OF 911 CALLS AND RADIO BROADCAST:

Two 911 calls were made to the Lancaster Station, which resulted in the deputies being assigned a call to respond to 53rd Street West and West Avenue L-4, Tag 21. During the incident deputies initiated emergent radio traffic. The recording of the 911 calls, and the radio broadcast was obtained and reviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeant Carlos Flores.

In the first 911 recording, an unidentified female is heard complaining about a party close to her home. The 911 dispatcher advises her to call the business line, and she advises that she will. The second caller, later identified as Witness [redacted], advises that there are 40 to 50 white males preparing to fight in the street. He additionally advises that the deputies should respond "ASAP," and that the situation was "intense." He then advises that a fight had just started.

In the radio broadcast recording, a deputy, later identified as Deputy Nordman, requests emergency clearance ("10-33"), and advises that he is involved in a fight. The Sheriff's Communications Center (SCC) dispatcher advises that the frequency is clear and she asks for his location. A female deputy, later identified as Deputy [redacted], gives her location. During her broadcast, some background noise can be heard, and the SCC dispatcher erroneously broadcasts the location as "[redacted] West and L-4." Deputies and a sergeant are then heard advising that they are responding.

Approximately one minute after the initial broadcast, the SCC dispatcher asks Deputy [redacted] to confirm her location. The dispatcher also advises that her (Deputy [redacted]'s) status, on the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) terminal indicates that she is "Code 6" at [redacted] Street West and L-4. Deputy [redacted] confirms the location. Approximately two minutes after the initial broadcast, Deputy [redacted] advises that the situation is "code four."

> **IAB Note:** The recordings of the 911 telephone call, and radio broadcast are included in this case book. See **Exhibit G**.

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL:

Deputies utilized personal weapons, hands, elbows, and knees. Deputy [redacted] utilized a flashlight.

WEAPONS USED BY SUBJECT:

Resistance

PROPERTY DAMAGE:

There was no property damaged during this incident.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR AND CHARGES FILED:

Investigator: Lancaster Station Detective Bureau - Detective James Dillard, #[redacted]

Court: Antelope Valley Court

Charge: 148(a)(1) PC, Resist, Obstruct, Delay of Peace Officer

IAB Note: On January 8, 2013, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, out of the Antelope Valley Courthouse, filed a Misdemeanor Complaint, one count of 148(a)(1), against Suspect Romero. See **Exhibit B**. On February 25, 2013, Suspect Romero was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended sentence. He was also sentenced to three years summary probation, and 10 days of community service.

WEATHER AND LIGHTING CONDITIONS:

The incident occurred in a residential neighborhood during night hours (0055), with very limited lighting. The weather was clear and cool.